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GREAT HARWOOD

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1942.

GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

THE WHOLE COUNCIL

Councillor J. Hargreaves (Chairman).

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Part time)

J. K. Cumming, M.B., Ch.B.,

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

A. Eddleston A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

(Retired 31st October, 1942)

SCHOOL NURSE AND HEALTH VISITOR

(Lancashire County Council)

Nurse S. Gray.

GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the Year 1942

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To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1942.

Despite the many changes due to over three years of war, I am happy to report that the health of the district remains satisfactory.

Population figures as supplied by the Registrar General show a slight decrease on 1941.

The number of births also show a decrease of 10 on the previous year. 114 of these, were born in the district and 19 were born in maternity hospitals etc. outside the area.

112 deaths were recorded in the district and 26 were transferable. There were 2 more deaths during the year than in 1941. Of the total deaths, 91 were of persons sixty five years of age and over, and the average age of deaths was 63 years.

As in 1941, there were no maternal deaths during the year, whilst the number of infants dying under one year of age was three as compared with 10 for 1941 giving an infant death rate 22.6 per 1000 live births.

Infectious diseases saw a 'jump' in the number of cases over 1941, due to an epidemic of 281 cases of measles of which 2 cases were fatal.

In June, the first 'Day Nursery' in the district was opened at 'Northands' under the County Council.

The year under review, marked a change on the Health department staff; Mr. A. Eddleston, the Sanitary Inspector, after serving the Council in this position for 37 years retired owing to ill-health and I would like to place on record my personal thanks to him for all his help and assistance to the department and also all the good work he has done for the town over so many years. I hope that he will enjoy many happy years with good health during his retirement.

Hereunder, I give details of the various statistics for the year:-

# S T A T I S T I C S

Area in acres	2,868
Number of inhabited houses - (a) Census, 1931	3,573
(b) End of 1942	3,680
Rateable value	£61,998
Sum represented by a penny rate	£241

## BIRTHS

	Total	M.	F.
(Legitimate)	128	56	72
Live Births (Illegitimate)	5	5	-
	<u>133</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>72</u>
Stillbirths (Legitimate)	8	2	6
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	57 (1941-46)		

## DEATHS

	Total	M.	F.
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	1	0
Eipththeria	1	1	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	1	1
Other forms of tuberculosis	2	1	1
Syphilitic diseases	1	1	0
Influenza	1	1	0
Measles	2	1	1
Cancer	22	5	17
Diabetes	2	2	0
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	15	5	10
Heart disease	33	12	21
Other diseases of circulatory system	6	2	4
Bronchitis	13	9	4
Pneumonia	2	0	2
Other respiratory diseases	2	0	2
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	1	1	0
Digestive diseases	5	5	0
Nephritis	2	1	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation etc.	2	0	2
Violent causes	2	2	0
All other causes	21	9	12
	<u>138</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>78</u>

Deaths from puerperal causes

Deaths      Death rate per 1000  
(live and still)  
births.

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis  
Other maternal causes  
Total

-                      -  
-                      -  
-                      -

Deaths of Infants under One Year of age:-

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1000 live births	22.6
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	23.4
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	NIL

(Death Rate for England and Wales 49)

Deaths from Cancer	(all ages)	22
" " Measles	( " " )	2
" " Whooping Cough	( " " )	NIL
" " Diarrhoea	(under 2 years of age)	NIL

TUBERCULOSIS

8 new cases and 3 deaths were recorded during the year the age groups of same being as follows:-

Age Periods	New cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.
5 - 10			2	1
15 - 20		1	1	1
25 - 35				
35 - 45	2			
	2	1	3	2

Age Periods	Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.
15 - 20				1
25 - 35			1	
35 - 45	1			
	1		1	1

The number of cases on the register at the close of the year was:-

Respiratory	M.	9	
	F.	<u>6</u>	15
Non-Respiratory	M.	17	
	F.	<u>5</u>	22
			37



# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Notifiable Disease	Age Periods											Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	35-	45-	Total cases		
Scarlet Fever		1		1	2	6	5				15		
Diphtheria					1	4					5	1	2
Measles	6	19	44	38	50	117	6	1			281	2	1
Whooping Cough		1					1				2		
Acute Pneumonia						1			1	1	3	2	
Cerebro-Spinal													
Fever							1				1	1	1
	6	21	44	39	53	128	13	1	1	1	307	6	4
													2

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of children immunised during the year:-

1)	Pre-school children	204	(Total to December 1942	374
2)	School children	182	( " " "	905
		<u>386</u>		<u>1279</u>

Number of post-Schick tests 60

## SCABIES

A few cases of scabies were notified and treated at Waddow Hall, Clitheroe.

## HOUSING

No. new houses were erected during the year, but many repairs were carried out to several houses, although there is a great difficulty in getting repairs executed on account of the labour shortage.

## WATER

Water is supplied by the Accrington District Gas and Water Board and the quality and quantity was well maintained during the year.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION ETC.

Number of pail closets	41
" " fresh water closets	1125
" " waste " "	2531
" " " " converted to fresh water closets during the year.	24

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collection of household and shop refuse was well maintained during the year, despite shortage of labour at times.

All refuse was disposed off by means of controlled tipping.

Number of ash-pits	878
" " dustbins	2634
" " dustbins substituted for ash-pits during the year	22

Cleansing of streets is also carried out by the department.

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Number of premises visited	104
" " defects or nuisances discovered	42
" abated	40
" of informal notices served	25
" " statutory " "	9

### FACTORIES

One factory was found to be with insufficient sanitary conveniences.

### MILK SUPPLY

Number of dairy farms	18
Approximate number of cows	300
Number of dairymen or milk purveyors	5
" " inspections	27
" " 'Accredited' farms	3

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Slaughtering of pigs was continued on behalf of the Ministry of Food, for bacon and ham curing.

Other food premises were found to be satisfactory.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. K. Cumming

Medical Officer of Health.